

OBSERVATIONS ON THE BIRDS OF JAMAICA,
WEST INDIES.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

II. A LIST OF THE BIRDS RECORDED FROM THE ISLAND, WITH
ANNOTATIONS.

(Continued from Vol. IX, p. 375.)

147. *Hadrostomus niger* (Gmel.). BLACK SHRIKE. JUDY. MOUNTAIN-DICK.—Said to be common above three thousand feet in the mountain districts. Not observed during my stay on the island.

148. *Tyrannus dominicensis* (Gmel.). GRAY KINGBIRD.—Apparently a migratory species, leaving the island during the winter months. The majority pass through the island, but many remain to breed.

149. *Pitangus caudifasciatus* (D'Orb.). COMMON PETCHARY. PIPIRI.—Very abundant at most points which were visited. This was particularly noticeable in the regions near the sea level. Above fifteen hundred feet elevation, at least in the winter, they were not nearly so common, but Gosse ('Birds of Jamaica,' p. 178) says that he has observed them at Bluefields Peaks. At Priestman's River, on February 14, these birds were generally building nests, and the breeding season was fairly begun.

150. *Myiarchus validus* (Cab.). TOM-FOOL.—This does not seem to be a very common species, and I did not meet with it, except on two occasions, below twelve hundred feet above the sea. At Stony Hill it was more common than at any other point visited, but even here it was among the rarer birds. In general habits and appearance it reminds one very much of *Myiarchus crinitus*.

151. *Myiarchus stolidus* (Gosse). LITTLE TOM-FOOL.—Commoner than *M. validus*, and much more generally distributed. Though met with more commonly at Stony Hill than at other points, yet a few were noted at all places visited, though in the immediate vicinity of the sea I did not find them. Gosse does not seem to have been acquainted with *M. validus*, and speaks of this species only in a general way. According to him it breeds in hollow stumps, about the last of June or in early July, as young were taken from such a location, grown so as to be recognized, in August ('Birds of Jamaica,' pp. 168-169).

152. *Blacus barbirostris* (Swains.). FLAT-BILL.—This was the commonest Flycatcher observed at Stony Hill, and was an abundant bird at that point. At Boston, near Priestman's River, though seen several times, it was not nearly so abundant as at the higher altitude of Stony Hill. The breeding season had not begun, nor was it imminent, when I left the island.

153. *Contopus pallidus* (Gosse). BUFF-WINGED FLAT-BILL.—This appears to be another species more common above than below a thousand feet above the sea. At Stony Hill I saw them frequently and procured a fine series of individuals, but at the sea level in the vicinity of Priestman's River they were not observed, while on the foot-hills a mile or more back from the salt water a few, two or three, were taken during the two months spent in this region. Its habits seem to resemble closely those of *Contopus virens*.

154. *Elainea cotta* (Gosse).—A rare species at points that I visited. On December 9, at Stony Hill, a female (9567) was taken. It was feeding on low bushes near the ground and acted much more like a *Dendroica* than a Flycatcher. On January 8 one was taken near the house at Boston, and on February 13 a male (11,120) and a female (11,121) were taken, evidently mated. On dissection these birds showed that the breeding season was about six weeks distant. These four are all the records made during my stay.

155. *Elainea fallax* (Sch.) Said to be very rare. Not met with at the points visited.

156. *Corvus jamaicensis* (Gmel.). GABBLING CROW. JABBERING CROW.—These birds were not uncommon at a point known as Egg Hill, about three miles inland from Priestman's River and about one thousand feet in altitude. Here, in a practically unsettled wilderness, I procured some six or eight individuals at various times, and this was the only point where I observed them. For an excellent account in much detail, as to habits and so forth, the reader is referred to Gosse ('Birds of Jamaica,' pp. 209-217).

The Black-headed Jay (*Cyanocorax pileatus*) (Temm.) has been recorded from Jamaica by Gosse ('Birds of Jamaica,' p. 208), but its occurrence must have been accidental.

157. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Linn.). BOBOLINK. BUTTERBIRD. OCTOBER PINK. PINK.—A very abundant migrant in October and April. Does not winter.

158. *Nesopsar nigerrimus* (Osburn).—Not met with. This species, from all I have been able to learn, is local in its distribution, and nowhere common.

159. *Icterus icterus* (Linn.). TROUPIAL.—Cited by authors as an introduced species. I did not meet with it, and it apparently does not occur on the island in a wild state at present.

160. *Icterus leucopteryx* (Wagl.). BANANA-BIRD.—A common resident species and generally distributed. The plumage of the sexes cannot be distinguished when the birds are adult. No. 9729, adult female, Stony Hill, Dec. 15, 1890, and nos. 10,703 and 10,704, both adult females, Priestman's River, January 28, 1891, do not differ in appearance in any way from adult males in highest plumage. Other instances might be cited. But young birds and birds probably up to the second year are not nearly as highly colored as adult birds. This seems to have nothing to do with

sex. At Boston the birds were quite common, and were mated before I left that point. Though not powerful singers like *Icterus galbula*, the birds have a very pretty song and the females seem to be as musical as the males. From many birds dissected I should think they would breed about the last of April or the first part of May.

161. *Quiscalus crassirostris* (Swains). TINKLING GRACKLE. BARBADOS BLACKBIRD. SHINING-EYES. — This bird was not observed in the vicinity of Kingston or at Stony Hill, but at Port Antonio and Priestman's River, they were not at all uncommon. They are gregarious, though the parties that I saw rarely consisted of more than six or eight individuals. Aside from the tinkling, melodious, call note they have a series of notes, that I have frequently heard given, that may fairly be called a song, and a very pretty, though not varied, one.

162. *Sicalis flaveola jamaicæ* (Sharpe). This is stated by Gosse to have been a common species, but apparently of very local distribution at the eastern part of the island. I was unable in my limited stay to visit the points indicated, and refer the reader for greater detail to Gosse ('Birds of Jamaica,' pp. 245-247).

163. *Ammodramus savannarum* (Gmel.). TICHICRO. GRASS PINK. SAVANNA-BIRD. — This was a common species in the grass fields about the Constant Springs Hotel, and just back of that locality. Here they were abundant, but as my series was collected in December, 1890, and just after the close of the breeding season, I have no proper material for a close comparison with the North American subspecies. All the birds I procured were moulting or in a very worn plumage.

Mr. Taylor tells me that he does not know of any other point on the island where the birds occur. There were apparently suitable localities at many points near Port Antonio and Priestman's River, but careful search failed to reveal their presence.

164. *Habia ludoviciana* (Linn.). ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEEK. — This is included on the authority of Mr. Hill (Gosse, 'Birds of Jamaica,' p. 259.)

165. *Euetheia bicolor* (Linn.). This was a rather common species at Stony Hill, and had only just finished breeding on my arrival at that point. I did not see the birds about Constant Springs nor in the immediate vicinity of Kingston. At Priestman's River they were uncommon, not more than a dozen being seen and taken during my stay.

166. *Euetheia olivacea* (Gmel.). (*Spermophila adoxa* Gosse, 'Birds of Jamaica,' p. 253.) YELLOW-FACED GRASSQUIT. — An abundant species, and of general distribution. It is perhaps most common at the lower altitudes.

In the vicinity of Priestman's River birds were observed carrying material for nest building early in January. On February 3 at this point an individual (No. 10,878) was taken which proved on dissection to be a female. In external appearance it was like the average male bird of the species, having the black of the head and throat intense and the orange

face marks very bright. Many females taken show this condition to some degree, but this is the only one in a large series indistinguishable from the adult male.

167. *Loxigilla violacea* (Linn.). COTTON-TREE SPARROW. BLACK BULLFINCH. COFFEE-BIRD.—A common species at the points visited, but it seemed more abundant at the lower altitudes than at Stony Hill and points higher in the mountains. In a large series before me there are many females quite as brightly colored as the more intense males, and indistinguishable from that sex in its highest plumage by any external features of color or appearance. Three females taken on February 16 were about to lay the first egg. The only song I heard from these birds was a series of rather weak notes, four or five in number, the last given with rather more emphasis than the others.

168. *Loxigilla anoxantha* (Gosse). YELLOW-BACKED FINCH.—This was a rather common bird at most points visited, though I did not see it at all during my stay at Constant Springs. At Stony Hill it was fairly common, but only a few were observed or taken at Priestman's River. It appears to be a species more common in the hills and higher altitudes than in the lowlands near the sea. I made no notes as to its nesting but Gosse ('Birds of Jamaica,' p. 248) speaks of finding a nest in June. On January 17 on the hills above Priestman's River, altitude 1000 feet, I took a young female (10,440) that apparently had not been long from the nest. Another (10,624) taken near the same locality on January 24 was still younger.

169. *Euphonia jamaica* (Linn.). BLUE QUIT.—At all points which I visited this was one of the most abundant and conspicuous of the fruit-eating birds. At Stony Hill they were gregarious and were feeding on the mango fruit and the sour sop. I also saw them in large companies in the vicinity of Constant Springs, and perhaps more abundantly at Priestman's River. They were equally common at all altitudes I visited.

Gosse ('Birds of Jamaica,' pp. 238-242) gives so detailed an account of the nesting, etc., of this bird that the reader is referred to the work cited.

170. *Spindalis nigricephala* (Jameson). MOUNTAIN BULLFINCH. ORANGE-BIRD. BANANA-BIRD. CASHEW-BIRD.—Another gregarious, fruit-eating species, and one of the more common and conspicuous birds of the island. At Stony Hill they were seen almost daily in parties of from three to ten, and more rarely a single individual or a pair. At Priestman's River they were abundant and found in similar small companies in the vicinity of any fruit-bearing trees, particularly mango, sour sop, and the like. On January 14 at Priestman's River individuals of both sexes were observed carrying material for nest building.

171. *Piranga erythromelas* (Vieill). SCARLET TANAGER.—This is apparently a rare migrant, passing through the island in March. There are no recent records and the reader is referred to Gosse ('Birds of Jamaica,' p. 235) for greater detail.

172. *Progne dominicensis* (Gmel.). GREAT BLUE SWALLOW.—Migrant and summer resident, a few wintering. Observed only once during my stay. This was at Priestman's River on February 5 when large numbers of birds, unquestionably this species, though none were obtained, appeared in company with many *Hemiprocne zonaris*. For a full account see Gosse ('Birds of Jamaica,' pp. 69-72).

173. *Petrochelidon fulva* (Vieill.) CUBAN CLIFF SWALLOW. CAVE SWALLOW.—An abundant resident species, especially near the coast, and not so common in the interior of the island. The caves, before referred to in this series of articles, in the faces of the cliffs along the shore, were favorite roosting and resting places for this species, and probably the birds bred here later in the year. Hundreds could be seen, about sunset, retiring to these caves at Priestman's River.

174. *Chelidon erythrogaster* (Bodd.). BARN SWALLOW.—Not observed. Included by A. and E. Newton ('Handbook Jamaica,' 1881, p. 107).

175. *Tachycineta euchrysea* (Gosse). GOLDEN SWALLOW.—This species seems of very local distribution. During the months spent on the island it was not even noted. From all that can be learned it is confined to the higher altitudes where it is resident and only common locally.

176. *Clivicola riparia* (Linn.). BANK SWALLOW. Not observed. Recorded by A. and E. Newton ('Handbook of Jamaica,' 1881, p. 107).

(To be concluded.)

SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS ON THE GENUS *PITTA*.

BY LEONHARD STEJNEGER.

MR. D. G. ELLIOT's recent paper in 'The Auk' (*antea*, pp. 51-52) on the Genus *Pitta* Vieillot, suggests a few remarks.

The earliest publication of the name *Pitta* is either in the 'Analyse' or in the fourth volume of the 'Nouveau Dictionnaire d'Histoire Naturelle,' pp. 355-358. Both publications bear the same apparent date, viz., 1816, [but internal evidence would